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July 13, 2016

The Honorable Sam Johnson
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Social Security
B317 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson:

AARP supports H.R.5320, the Social Security Must Avert Identity Loss (MAIL) Act of 2016, which would protect Social Security numbers (SSNs) from inappropriate public disclosure. AARP, with its nearly 38 million members in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

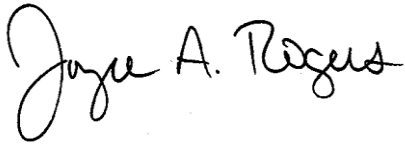
Social Security is the primary source of retirement and disability income for 60 million Americans. Personal information about Social Security benefits, such as Social Security numbers (SSNs), is critical financial information and must be afforded the highest level of privacy protection. H.R.5320 would ensure that Social Security numbers (SSNs) are protected by making clear the Social Security Administration may not include a full Social Security account number on any document sent by mail unless the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration determines that such inclusion is necessary.

AARP has a longstanding public policy position on Social Security privacy that companies, government agencies, and individuals should not be allowed to post or publicly display SSNs, print them on cards, transmit them over the internet, or send them by mail without safety measures. We appreciate your recognition of the important need to protect personal Social Security information and efforts to urge Congress to make this needed change in the law.

Alabama | Alaska | Arizona | Arkansas | California | Colorado | Connecticut | Delaware | District of Columbia | Florida | Georgia | Hawaii | Idaho | Illinois | Indiana
Iowa | Kansas | Kentucky | Louisiana | Maine | Maryland | Massachusetts | Michigan | Minnesota | Mississippi | Missouri | Montana | Nebraska | Nevada
New Hampshire | New Jersey | New Mexico | New York | North Carolina | North Dakota | Ohio | Oklahoma | Oregon | Pennsylvania | Puerto Rico
Rhode Island | South Carolina | South Dakota | Tennessee | Texas | Utah | Vermont | Virgin Islands | Virginia | Washington | West Virginia | Wisconsin | Wyoming

Because of Social Security, millions of Americans and their families are able to live their lives with dignity and independence. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all aspects of the Social Security program remain strong for future generations of American workers and their families. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, or have your staff contact Cristina Martin Firvida on our Government Affairs staff at 202-434-6194.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce A. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs